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DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE  
Committee on Imagery Requirements and Exploitation

18 January 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR: CIA Member, COMIREX

SUBJECT: National Imagery Program Launch Schedule [ ]

25X1

REFERENCE: Your Memo, Same Subject, Dated 23 September 1981,  
[ ]

25X1

1. I have reviewed your proposal as detailed in referenced memorandum that COMIREX undertake to establish a launch schedule which is responsive to our current and projected imagery requirements during [ ] You raised a number of considerations that should be addressed through the development of various launch scenarios. Historically, it has been demonstrated that imagery requirements coupled with NRP technical considerations create a dynamic situation which makes it very difficult to establish and adhere to a firm long-term launch schedule.

25X1

2. The main concern you raised, however, is should we maintain a [ ] launch capability for FY 1985 or develop firm plans for [ ] termination in FY 1984 at a projected cost savings of about [ ] dollars. Numerous scenarios could be developed that would call for either early expenditure of the remaining [ ] missions or retention of one or more systems into the 1985 period for contingency purposes. I have asked the NRO to advise me of the latest date, from a cost avoidance standpoint, that a decision can be made on whether to retain a 1985 [ ] launch capability or terminate the Program in 1984. I believe we should delay a decision on this matter until that time. The advantage in such a delay affords us an insight as to the performance of our near-term assets. For example, under present planning, [ ] during CY 1982 and the failure of any of these would have a direct impact on our decision. Furthermore, the early demise of [ ] which is presently operating in a degraded mode, would have a bearing on the decision.

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NRO Review Completed.

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SUBJECT: National Imagery Program Launch Schedule 

25X1

3. I plan to address the issues you raised in the referenced memorandum to COMIREX in accordance with the timelines provided by the NRO.

4. This memorandum is classified  in its entirety.

25X1

 25X1

Chairman

**Distribution:**

- 1 - CIA Member, COMIREX
- 2 - Executive Secretary, COMIREX
- 3 - PAD/O/ICE/ICS
- 4 - COMIREX Staff File (Planning)
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DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE  
Committee on Imagery Requirements and Exploitation

18 January 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR: [REDACTED]

25X1

NRO Consultant, COMIREX

SUBJECT:

National Imagery Program Launch Schedule [REDACTED]

25X1

REFERENCE:

CIA Memo, Same Subject, dated 23 September 1981,  
[REDACTED]

25X1

1. As you are aware, CIA has asked COMIREX to review and possibly establish a satellite imagery launch schedule that would terminate the [REDACTED] program in FY 1984 vice FY 1985. This early termination would possibly result in a reported cost savings of about [REDACTED] dollars.

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2. This proposal has serious implications affecting our backup capabilities [REDACTED] I believe that a decision on this matter should be delayed as long as possible. The advantage to such a delay affords us an insight as to the performance of our near-term assets. For example, under present planning, there could be [REDACTED] during CY 1982 and the failure of any of these would have a direct impact on our decision.

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3. It is requested that the NRO advise COMIREX of the latest date, from a cost avoidance standpoint, that a decision can be made to terminate [REDACTED] in FY 1984 and as precise information as possible on actual cost savings.

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4. This memorandum is classified [REDACTED] in its entirety.

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25X1

[REDACTED]  
Chairman

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